## Message Text

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S/S - PSBRIDGES

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CONFIDENTIAL STATE 008776

**EXDIS** 

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS, PBOR, BF, US

SUBJECT: U.S.-BAHAMAS FISHERIES BOUNDARY

REF: 76 STATE 291156

1. DEPT HAS BEGUN CONSULTATIONS WITH CONGRESS, FEDERAL AND LOCAL AGENCIES, AND OTHER DOMESTIC INTERESTS REGARDING THE DELIMITATION OF A PROVISIONAL BOUNDARY BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE BAHAMAS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT PURPOSES UNDER THE U.S. FISHERY CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT ACT. THESE CONSULTATIONS, AS WELL AS DISCUSSIONS WITH GCOB, MUST BE CONCLUDED AND INSTRUCTIONS TO COAST GUARD PUBLISHED PRIOR TO MARCH 1 WHEN THE ACT BECOMES EFFECTIVE.

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2. IN VIEW OF THE SUBSTANTIAL DOMESTIC INTEREST IN THIS SUBJECT, WE FEEL CONSTRAINED TO CONSULT WITH MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND FLORIDA STATE AUTHORITIES -- AND HOPEFULLY TO OBTAIN THEIR AGREEMENT -- BEFORE WE APPROACH GCOB. WE RECOGNIZE THAT THIS SEQUENCE OF EVENTS MAY RESULT IN PREMATURE PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF OUR POSITION, AND WE WISH TO AVOID PROVOKING ILL-ADVISED

BAHAMIAN COUNTER-ACTIONS BASED ON PRESS REPORTS OR RUMORS OF OUR INTENTIONS.

3. AMBASSADOR OR DCM SHOULD TAKE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY TO INFORM APPROPRIATE GCOB OFFICIALS THAT U.S. POSITION IS UNDER DISCUSSION WITH DOMESTIC INTEREST GROUPS, WITH THE POSSIBILITY THAT ELEMENTS OF THIS DISCUSSION MAY BE REPORTED IN PRESS OR ELSEWHERE. YOU MAY ASSURE GCOB THAT WE WILL INFORM THEM OF OUR POSITION BEFORE MARCH I AND PRIOR TO OFFICIAL PUBLICATION. THEY SHOULD NOT BE ALARMED BY UNOFFICIAL VIEWS EXPRESSED BY OTHERS IN THE MEANTIME. YOU MAY INFORM GCOB THAT WE WILL REQUEST APPOINTMENT FOR DISCUSSION OF U.S. POSITION AS SOON AS ALL U.S. DOMESTIC INTERESTS HAVE BEEN CONSULTED AND HAVE HAD OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS. (FYI: WE ARE THINKING OF SMALL GROUP VISITING NASSAU IN MIDFEBRUARY.)

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## Message Attributes

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TAGS: PLOS, PBOR, BF, US

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